

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Minima Yacht Club: Club Racing

The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The provisions of Part 2c: Navigation - steering sailing and speed of The Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993 ("Thames Byelaws") apply between a boat that is subject to the RRS and a boat that is not.
- 1.3 Beginners may receive outside help during a race. This may include on-water coaching, recovery from a capsize or receiving a tow to get back into the race if a strong stream is taking them backwards. This changes **RRS 41 Outside Help**.
- 1.4 A boat that is recorded as finishing in accordance with **SI 14 Stragglers' Rule** is not required to sail the course or finish after she has been so recorded. This changes **RRS 28 Sailing the Race**.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted 1 hour before the scheduled start of the first race on the day it will take effect.
- 2.2 In exceptional circumstances, changes to a sailing instruction may be made by the Race Officer by notifying all competitors in the launching area, or from a patrol boat on the water, or by any other method appropriate to the circumstances.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing notice board located near the changing rooms.
- 3.2 Any change to the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions will also be posted on the website at <https://minimayc.co.uk/sailing/>.
- 3.3 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 The objective of Club Racing is to promote friendly, fair and competitive racing within the rules between sailors of all abilities from beginners to experienced racers.

- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and anyone accompanying them shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**
- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Race Box or near the start line if the start is elsewhere.
- 6. LAUNCHING**
- 6.1 Competitors are encouraged to launch and clear the landing stage in a timely and prompt manner before the start of the race. However, they will not be protested by the Race Officer for not being afloat at the preparatory signal, unless it is thought they are seeking to gain an unfair advantage by doing so. This changes **RRS 45 Hauling Out, Making Fast, Anchoring**.
- 7. CLASS FLAGS**
- 7.1 The class flags are as described in **SI Addendum A**.
- 8. RACING AREA**
- 8.1 The racing area is on the River Thames between Kingston Bridge and Ravens Ait.
- 8.2 For long distance races the racing area is on the River Thames between Kingston Bridge and Hampton Court Bridge.
- 9. COURSES**
- 9.1 The courses are displayed from the race box and will show:
- (a) the order in which the marks are to be passed, using letter boards;
 - (b) the side on which each mark is to be left, indicated by the background colour of the letter boards (red for port and green for starboard);
 - (c) the number of laps to be completed, using number boards.
- 9.2 In the event of the word SPECIAL being displayed, the course will be displayed on the official notice board or a chalk board.
- 10. MARKS**
- 10.1 Marks A, B, C, D, E and S will be orange or red with black or white letters. The position of marks will be approximately as laid out in **SI Addendum B**.
- 11. THE START**
- 11.1 Races will be started using **RRS 26**.
- 11.2 The normal starting line is between the red line painted on the Race Box and the white mark on the Middlesex bank. This line is indicated by transit marks above the race box.
- 11.3 If it is decided to set a starting line elsewhere to take advantage of better sailing conditions, this may be:
- (a) a line from a vertical staff on a club launch to the closest point on the opposite river bank;

- (b) a line extending at right angles from a vertical staff on the Surrey Bank to the Middlesex Bank; or
- (c) a line between a vertical staff on either a club launch or a bank to Mark 'S' or another mark notified to competitors.

11.4 Mark 'S' may be laid as an inner or outer distance mark.

11.5 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

11.6 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number, name or helm name. Failure to hail her, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for redress. This changes **RRS 61.1(a)**.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark or move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.

13. THE FINISH

13.1 The normal finishing line is the start line.

13.2 **RRS 32.2** is changed to read

To shorten the course, the race committee shall display flag S with two sounds before the first boat crosses the finishing line. If the course is shortened, the finishing line shall be,

- (a) at a rounding mark, between the mark and a staff displaying flag S;
- (b) a line the course requires boats to cross; or
- (c) at a gate, between the gate marks.
- (d) at the start line

13.3 If flag S is displayed together with one or more class flags then the course is shortened for that class or classes only.

13.4 After they have finished, boats shall keep clear of the area around the finish line and shall keep clear of boats that have not finished.

14. STRAGGLERS' RULE

14.1 Provided she has completed at least one lap, a boat that is still racing at the end of the finishing window shall be recoded as finishing at the end of her previous lap and the race officer shall notify her that she has finished and should return to the launching area (or starting area if appropriate).

14.2 If the race officer believes that a boat that is still racing may not finish within the finishing window, or in order not to delay the start of a following race, then the race officer may

- (a) record her as finishing at the end of her previous lap; and
- (b) notify her that she has finished and should return to the launching area (or starting area if appropriate).

- 14.3 The finishing time for a boat that has been finished under **SI 14** shall be adjusted to produce a fair result which will normally be based on her average lap time.

15. DURATION OF RACES

- 15.1 Normal target times and time limits or finishing windows are set out below.

	Target Time	Time Limit	Finishing Window
Wednesday Evening	75 minutes, or to allow the slowest competitor to finish before sunset if less		30 minutes
Pursuit Races	90 minutes		30 minutes
Sunday (1 race)	75 minutes		30 minutes
Sunday (2 or more races)	45 minutes		30 minutes
Long Distance	150 minutes for the SLOWEST boat	195 minutes	

- 15.2 Target times may be adjusted by the Race Officer according to weather and river conditions and forecasts.

16. ADVISORY MEETING

- 16.1 When there is an incident that will not result in the lodging of a protest or a request for redress, a boat may request an advisory meeting and notify any boat involved in the incident.
- 16.2 An adviser will then call a meeting to learn what may have happened and will state whether any rule appears to have been broken, and by which boat.
- 16.3 A boat may as a result notify the race office that it accepts a Post-Race Penalty when it applies to the incident, or choose to retire, but is not required to do so.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the Race Officer signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 17.2 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Officer.
- 17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the 'snug' room in the clubhouse, beginning at the time posted.
- 17.4 The Race Officer will make reasonable efforts to inform competitors verbally, or if they have left the club by telephone or email, of the time and place of any hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 17.5 **RRS 62.2(a)** and **66.2(a)** do not apply for any series longer than one day.

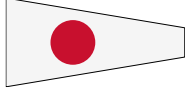
18. SCORING

- 18.1 Scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix A as amended by NoR 13.
- 18.2 Minima handicap numbers or personal handicap numbers approved by the Sailing Committee will be used for internal club racing.

- 18.3 Sailors allocated to club duties during a series may be awarded average points for the race(s) they are unable to participate in at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.
- 18.4 A helm who changes his or her their boat during a long series may amalgamate points providing boats are of the same class, and their Annual Registration form is amended in the Race Box. Only one change per series is allowed unless agreed by the Sailing Committee.
- 19. SAFETY REGULATIONS**
- 19.1 [DP] Boats shall be equipped with a paddle and a painter of at least 2m.
- 19.2 Personal flotation devices (buoyancy aids) are compulsory for all children under 16 and all non-swimmers at all times while afloat, launching or recovering.
- 19.3 Competitors are reminded that if flag Y is displayed from the Race Box with one sound, each competitor shall wear a personal flotation device at all times while afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment (**RRS 40**).
- 19.4 Competitors are reminded that all boats must carry adequate life-saving equipment for all persons on board, including one item ready for immediate use, unless her class rules make some other provision (**RRS 1.2**), and this requirement is satisfied if all persons on board wear a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.
- 19.5 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Officer at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**
- 20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Rules, including any applicable class rules.
- 21. PRIZES**
- 21.1 Trophies will be awarded as set out in the White Book.
- 21.2 Trophies will not be awarded for classes with fewer than three *qualifying* entries.
- 21.3 Prizes will be awarded for the number of places equal to the square root of the number of *qualifying* entries, rounded down.

22 July 2026

CLASS FLAGS

Enterprise	Echo	
Laser	Lima	
Merlin Rocket	Oscar	
Solo	Numeral 1	
Thames A Rater	Alpha	
Handicap Class	Hotel	
All Classes (not yet started)	Golf	
Mass start (handicap race)	Zulu	

Position of marks

S mark
may be placed
anywhere

